

MONTANA CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY CENTER POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

Policy Subject: Medical Marijuana Act, Initiative No.148 (2004)	Related Policies: Treatment Philosophy ORG 03; APM 37.27.120 Guiding Principles & Guidelines ORG 04, Drug Free Workplace PRP 16,16-A; ARM 37.27.121 Medication Administration MNP 13; A.R.M. 37.27.130 Non-discrimination, A.R.M. 37.27.115, 37.27.116
Policy Number: MNP 21	Standards / Statutes: As Above
Effective Date: 3/07/2005	Page 1 of 2.

PURPOSE:

To insure MCDC conforms to the policy and procedures established in its Treatment Philosophy, Guiding Principles & Guidelines and policies governing Medication Administration, Policy # MNP 13, and Drug Free Workplace/Substance Abuse, Policy # PRP 16.

BACKGROUND:

Marijuana (cannabis) is regulated by the federal Controlled Substances Act as a Schedule I substance, along with other substances which have a high potential for abuse and no currently accepted medical use.

The Montana Medical Marijuana Act, Initiative No 148 (2004) defines various "debilitating medical conditions" for which the use and limited possession of marijuana (cannabis) may be allowed without criminal penalty under state law if a "qualifying patient" obtains a medical marijuana registry identification card from the Department of Public Health and Humans Services. A caregiver for a qualified person may also obtain a registry identification card.

POLICY:

1. Creation of an optimum environment for recovery from the disease of chemical dependency is pivotal to the mission of MCDC and its Treatment Philosophy. Allowing use of a controlled substance in this environment would:
 - a. be inconsistent with the mission statement, purpose, and therapeutic goals of this facility;
 - b. jeopardize the treatment of other patients; and
 - c. undermine the public trust.

2. MCDC does not discriminate in offering or providing its services to any person who has been certified as being a "qualified patient" or having a "debilitating medical condition" as defined in Initiative 148, the Montana Medical Marijuana Act, or who has been issued a Medical Marijuana Registry Identification Card by the Department of Public Health and Human Services.

PROCEDURE:

1. Possession or use of marijuana by any person (patient, visitor or staff) within MCDC is prohibited under all circumstances.
2. MCDC patients may not use or possess marijuana during treatment at MCDC, on or off grounds.
3. MCDC staff may not handle, store or dispense marijuana for a patient under any circumstances.
4. MCDC staff will work with any "qualified patient" who has been issued a Medical Marijuana Registry Identification Card by the Department of Public Health and Human Services to develop a medically appropriate alternative treatment plan for any "debilitating medical condition" without the use of marijuana during treatment for chemical dependency at MCDC.

Revisions:

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Approved By: _____
David J. Peshek, Administrator Date _____